

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-15 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages. Claim 15 has been added to the application.

In the first paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p) (5). The Examiner stated that the drawing includes a reference sign 20 that is not mentioned in the specification. The specification has been amended so as to include the reference sign 20. Therefore, the objection by the Examiner is now moot.

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 4-8 and 14 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that with regard to claims 4 and 6, the arrangement and critical relationship between the disk and studs with respect to the bolt and ram is unclear. Claim 4 has been amended so as to facilitate

prosecution of the application. Therefore, the rejection of claims 4 and 6 is now moot.

Support for the change can be found on page 10, line 18 to page 11, line 2 of the specification of the instant application.

The Examiner stated that claim 14 recites the limitation "the objects." The Examiner stated that there is no antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is respectfully noted that the "objects" are recited in the preamble of claim 11. Therefore, claim 14 has not been amended to overcome the rejection.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In the first paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1 and 9-13 have been rejected as being obvious over Tezuka (U.S. Patent No. 3,416,439) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 2 and on page 10, lines 11-21 of the specification of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 15 call for, *inter alia*:

a ram head concentrically mounted to the ram and rotatable relative to the frame, the ram head having a centrally disposed bolt.

The high-pressure press according to the instant application has particularly high durability and longevity even for the processing of bulky objects. To achieve this, the application provides for consequently preventing the introduction of forces which act in a peripheral direction via the ram head into the ram and thus into the frame. Therefore, the ram head

according to the application is positioned rotatably about its middle axis so that it can simply avoid or give way to the forces, which may arise in a peripheral direction.

Such a concept cannot be found in the Tetsuka reference. Even though the high-pressure press disclosed therein seems to provide a rotatably disposed ram head. The rotatable ram head does not avoid forces, which may arise in a peripheral direction, but instead is an active drive for the purpose of a controlled adjustment of an orientation of the ram head. Therefore, the rest of the construction of the Tetsuka reference is generally different from that of the instant invention. The high-pressure press according to Tetsuka comprises a plurality of rams (6), which carry a common suspension for the ram head.

The reference does not show a ram head concentrically mounted to the ram and rotatable relative to the frame, the ram head having a centrally disposed bolt, as recited in claims 1 and 15 of the instant application. Since the Tetsuka reference discloses a plurality of rams (6), it is impossible for Tetsuka to have a ram head concentrically mounted to the ram and the ram head having a centrally disposed bolt, as is claimed in the instant application.

Furthermore, in the configuration of the present invention as claimed, in which the ram head, ram, and bolt are all coaxial, the characteristic of the high-pressure press in the longitudinal direction of the ram (i.e. in the compression direction) remains unchanged even with a rotation of the ram head about its axis due to a reaction on the material that is being pressed. Therefore, the high-pressure press according to the instant application has an operating behavior which is independent of the shape of the material to be pressed and forces which might have been caused in a peripheral direction of the ram head caused by the material remain constant and thus always controllable.

In the first paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1 and 9-13 have been rejected as being obvious over Tezuka (U.S. Patent No. Tezuka 3,416,439) in view of Crandall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,584,936) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is noted that since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, claims 9-13 are allowable as well. Furthermore, it is noted that Crandall et al. do not make up for the deficiencies of Tezuka.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 15. Claims 1 and 15 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and


since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are solicited. In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (amended). An apparatus for compressing objects,
comprising:

a base plate;

a frame disposed on said base plate;

a ram displaceably guided on said frame; and

a ram head [attached] concentrically mounted to said ram and
rotatable relative to said frame, said ram head having a
centrally disposed bolt, said bolt having one end rotationally
connected to said ram for rotationally mounting said ram head
on said ram, and said bolt having another end with a threaded
extension to be rotationally fixed to said ram head for
exchanging said ram head.

Claim 4 (amended). The apparatus according to claim 1,
including a disk [and] having studs disposed thereon, said
disk and said studs supporting said one end of said bolt on
said ram.

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Marked-up version of the specification:

Referring now to the figures of the drawings in detail and first, particularly, to Fig. 1 thereof, there is seen an apparatus 10 according to the invention which includes a base plate 11, a frame 12, a ram 13 and a ram head 14. A holder 15 which is also provided has an interior space 20 into which a cask 16 is inserted. The ram head 14 is guided so as to be displaceable in the direction of an arrow 18 relative to the frame 12. The ram 13 serves to move the ram head 14 and therefore the ram 13 contains suitable non-illustrated devices. When the cask 16 is being compressed, bulky objects contained in the cask 16 can apply forces to the ram head 14 in the peripheral direction. This is essentially due to the fact that the compressive force on the object to be compressed (e.g. a cask which can contain such objects) is initiated in a non-concentric manner by the bulky parts.